

BOROUGH OF CLITHEROE.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F

J. H. FAIRWEATHER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31ST. DECEMBER, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the
Borough of Clitheroe.

Lady & Gentlemen,

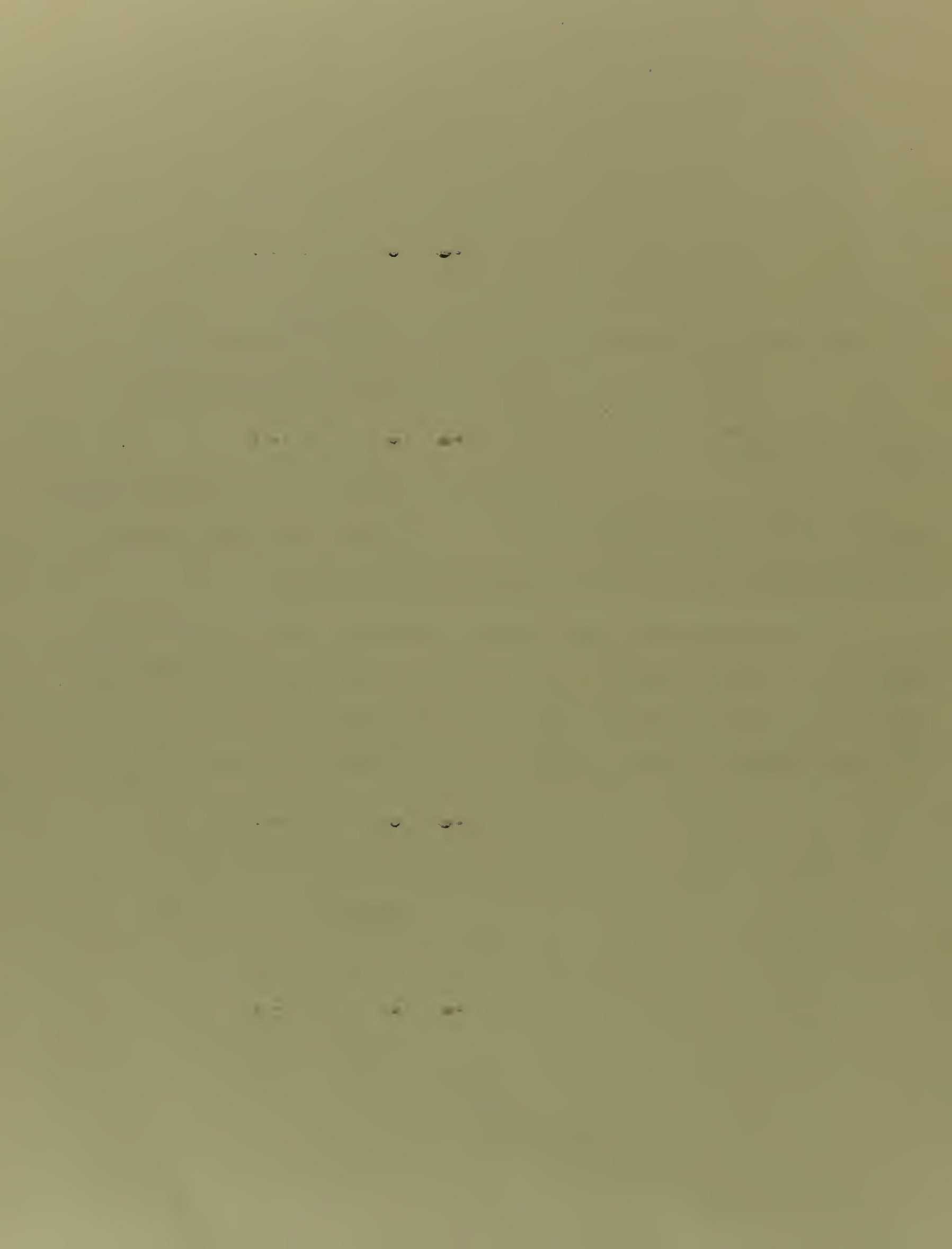
I have the honour to submit to you my First Annual Report for the Year 1944, which in accordance with suggestions of the Ministry of Health is in an abbreviated form.

My predecessor, Dr. Barker, resigned his appointment as Medical Officer of Health in August and this Report is therefore presented partly on his behalf. I am greatly indebted to him for the assistance he gave me when I was appointed his successor.

I am, Lady & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOSEPH, H. FAIRWEATHER.



PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

WM. E. BARKER, M.B., CH.B., (VICT.), L.S.A. (LOND). PART-TIME.
(Retired from Service - August 1944)

JOSEPH. H. FAIRWEATHER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. PART-TIME.
(Appointed Medical Officer of Health - September, 1944)

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

EDWARD COATES, A.R.S.I.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

JAMES BOLTON.

HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE.

ELSA. W. BATES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION - 11,060.

During the year, 208 Live Births were registered (110 male and 98 female) giving a BIRTH RATE for 1944 of 18.8 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure which is 2.2 above that of 1943, and an increase of 5.7 on the average for the previous 5 years.

Five Stillbirths (4 male and 1 female) were registered, giving a STILL BIRTH RATE of 23 per 1,000 total (live & still) births, a decrease of 34 per 1,000 on 1943.

One Maternal Death was reported during the year, giving a MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE of 4.69 per 1,000 total (live & still) births. No such deaths were recorded during the previous five years.

During the same period, 145 Deaths were registered, giving a DEATH RATE of 13.1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure which is 2.0 per 1,000 below that of 1943 and 0.8 below the previous five year's average.

The Deaths included 1 from Diphtheria; 1 from Whooping Cough; 1 from Acute Infective Encephalitis; 2 from Pneumonia; 10 from bronchitis; 5 from Tuberculosis; 21 from Cancer; 52 from Organic Heart Disease; 8 from Nephritis; 2 from Influenza; and 1 from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

The above figures show slight increases in deaths from Tuberculosis, Organic Heart Disease and Nephritis, but a marked diminution in the deaths from Cancer (21 as compared with 36 in 1943).

There were 6 Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age) during the year, giving an INFANT MORTALITY RATE of 28 per 1,000 live births registered, a decrease of 15 on the figure for 1943 and a decrease of 10 on the mean for the previous five years.

STILL BIRTHS.

As mentided previously, five Still Births occurred during the year, giving a Rate of 23 per 1,000 total (live and Still)births, a considerable reduction on the previous year.

All the children were legitimate, (4 boys & 1 girl). Four of the mothers had attended our Ante-Natal Clinic, the other having had ante-natal care from her own doctor.

Full enquiries were made and it was found in all cases that there had been adequate medical and nursing attention to confinement.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.DURING THE YEAR.

230 cases of Notifiable Diseases were reported during the year, an increase of 14 cases on the previous year. Of these, 146 were Measles and 25 Whooping Cough, and one death was attributable to the latter disease.

Only nine cases of Pneumonia were reported as against 23 in 1943, with 3 deaths.

There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever which for some years now has diminished in severity.

One of the two cases of Diphtheria notified was fatal, this being an infant of 5 months which had not been immunised. Efforts have continued during the year to secure that the largest possible percentage of young children are immunised against this dangerous disease, and the response of parents generally was gratifying.

185 children were immunised during 1944, and I estimate that not less than 90% of all children between one and five years, and 95% of children between the ages of five and fifteen, are now protected against Diphtheria.

SCABIES.

For many years before the war the town was practically free from this disease, but following the influx of evacuees in the early stages of the war period there was a steep rise in the case incidence. Fortunately, since that time there as been a gradual diminution in the number of cases and the disease is obviously declining in prevalence. Only 13 cases were found in school children during the year, as compared with 60 in 1941, 30 in 1942, and 17 in 1943.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.

These remain substantiallyⁿ as in previous Reports.

LABORATORY WORK.

This shows no change on previous years.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.WATER SUPPLY.

This is from neighbouring upland sources, is of a high degree of purity, and adequate in amount.

The Council have under consideration a scheme for the increasing of storage capacity by the construction of a new reservoir on the existing Gathering Grounds.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

No change during the year.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

There still remain in the Borough 20 Pail Closets and some 1,300 Slopwater or "Tippler" Closets which are to be dealt with under a Conversion Scheme in the early post-war period.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION, ETC.

The following is a summary of the work done in the removal of House Refuse (excluding Salvage loads) during the year :-

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. House and Shop Refuse removed to Destructor.... | 1,631 loads. |
| 2. Offal removed from Government Slaughterhouse.... | 210 loads. |
| 3. Fish and Vegetable Offal removed from Trade Premises and Market | 233 loads. |
| 4. Nightsoil from Pail Closets..... | 52 loads. |
| Total | <u>2,126 loads.</u> |

The total weight of House and Shop Refuse (1,631 loads) amounted to 2.456 tons 6 cwt. 1 qrs., which is 300 tons over and above the weight collected during the previous year.

Despite the increased demands on the Department in the salvaging of materials so urgently required for the War purposes, the collection of dustbins was kept to the fortnightly schedule during the greater part of the year. It is very desirable, however, that at the earliest possible moment a weekly collection of household refuse be instituted in the Town.

SALVAGE OF WASTE MATERIALS.

The following shows the total weight of Salvage disposed of and the Income therefrom during the Year ended 31st December, 1944:-

| | T. | C. | QR. | LBS. | £ | s | d. |
|--------------------------|-----|----|-----|------|-----|----|-----|
| Waste Paper (all grades) | 57 | 1 | 1 | 0. | 369 | 5 | 4 |
| Ferrous Metal..... | 15 | 10 | 2 | 0. | 17 | 12 | 3 |
| Baled Destructor Tins... | 56 | 15 | 0 | 0. | 89 | 7 | 4 |
| Non-Ferrous Metal..... | | 1 | 1 | 26. | 3 | 18 | 9 |
| Textiles..... | 5 | 5 | 2 | 11. | 25 | 1 | 0 |
| Rope & String..... | | | 3 | 7. | | 3 | 9 |
| Waste Rubber..... | | 9 | 1 | 25. | | 4 | 8 |
| Bottles & Jars..... | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0. | 10 | 16 | 3 |
| Household Bones..... | 6 | 13 | 1 | 22. | 13 | 3 | 7 |
| Kitchen Waste..... | 201 | 17 | 0 | 0. | 302 | 15 | 6 |
| Totals. | 345 | 15 | 3 | 7.£ | 832 | 8. | 8d. |

Compared with the previous year, these figures show a decrease in collection of some 33 tons. There was a sharp decline in the output of Waste Paper, but substantial increases in the collection of Household Bones and Kitchen Waste.

Thirty-two Salvage Stewards are enrolled in the Borough. The majority again showed themselves to be enthusiastic and rendered valuable assistance.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The Public Abattoir continued as a Government Centre for the distribution of meat in the area covered by the Clitheroe Borough and the Clitheroe and Bowland Rural Districts, and the slaughtering of animals for food is centralised there, and meat inspection thereby facilitated.

Food Shops and Market Stalls have been visited frequently during the year under review.

The following shows the amount of food condemned and removed from the Food Supply during the year :-

MEAT.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| 59 Beast Carcasses | 22,532 lbs. | 18 Calf Carcasses | 729 lbs. |
| Carcase Parts | 817 lbs. | Carcase Parts | 13 lbs. |
| Liver Trimmings | 5,961 lbs. | 18 Heads & Plucks | 147 lbs. |
| 77 Heads & Tongues | 2,029 lbs. | 87 Sheep Carcasses | 2,640 lbs. |
| 80 Hearts | 322 lbs. | Carcase Parts | 107 lbs. |
| 130 Skirts | 187 lbs. | 1751 Sheep Livers | 2,307 lbs. |
| 69 Tails | 134 lbs. | 90 Heads & Plucks | 495 lbs. |
| 196 Lights & Melts | 1,404 lbs. | 2 Pig Heads | 32 lbs. |
| 127 Udders | 1,362 lbs. | 2 Pig Plucks | 8 lbs. |
| | | Corned Beef | 80 lbs. |

BAKEHOUSES.

These remain substantially as in previous Reports.

The standard of cleanliness in these premises has been well maintained during the year, the result, no doubt, of frequent inspection and regular contact with employers and employees in this trade.

FACTORIES.

Several contraventions of the Health Provisions of the Factories Act were met with during the year. Following notices to the owners, the following works were carried out in two Power Factories :-

- (1) Provision of intervening ventilated space to internal sanitary accommodation.
- (2) Insufficiency of sanitary accommodation remedied by the provision of a convenience for female employees.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS.

Frequent visits have been paid to these premises during the year and, with one or two exceptions, the standard of cleanliness and the methods of milk production were found to be very satisfactory.

Complaints were received in two instances as to the "souring" of milk supplied and investigation proved that the bacteriological standard and the keeping quality of the milk left much to be desired. Supervision of production methods and some routine sampling, however, brought about the desired improvement in standard.

Improvements to premises were carried out at three Farms as follows :-

- No.1. Approach road and large unpaved farm-yard was properly concreted and drained.
- No.2. New floor provided to cowshed, new middenstead built, and an improved town's water supply laid on.
- No.3. Water Supply to the farm improved by the laying of a new main.

PROMOTION OF CLEANLINESS AND GOOD HABITS
AND THE ELIMINATION OF VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

There was no evidence of widespread lice infestation in the borough in 1944. The general standard of cleanliness was considered to be good so that no extensive campaign to combat lousiness was called for.

The department's Nurse again carried out the regular clean-

liness inspections in the Schools, giving special attention to the cleanliness of the childrens' heads in an endeavour to combat infestation by lice. Very few cases of actual infestation were found. In these few cases, parents were informed and given instructions as to cleaning up, and in their default, the necessary treatment was given at the Clinic. Children under school age are seen by the nurse in their homes or at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Talks on Personal Hygiene and the Formation of Good Habits regarding Cleanliness are given by the Teachers in the Elementary Schools.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

| | |
|---|-----|
| House to House Inspections..... | 20 |
| House to House Re-Inspections..... | 16 |
| Other House Inspections..... | 256 |
| Factory Inspections (including Bakehouses) .. | 174 |
| Visits re Overcrowding..... | 4 |
| Visits to Infected Houses..... | 56 |
| Visits to Government Slaughterhouse..... | 554 |
| Visits to Dairy Farms..... | 235 |
| Visits to Food Shops and Stalls..... | 142 |
| Visits to Inhabited Vans (Fairground)..... | 10 |
| Visits re Work in Progress..... | 38 |
| Visits re Complaints..... | 247 |
| Miscellaneous Visits by Inspector..... | 576 |
| Houses disinfected..... | 40 |

Health Visitor.

| | |
|--|------|
| Primary Visits to Infants under 1 Year..... | 184 |
| Secondary Visits to Infants under 1 Year.... | 341 |
| Visits to Children 1 to 5 Years..... | 1135 |
| Visits to Expectant Mothers..... | 84 |
| Visits re Stillbirths..... | 7 |
| Miscellaneous Visits..... | 101 |

RODENT CONTROL.

In May, 1944, the Council appointed a full-time Rodent Officer to carry out the work of disinfection under the direction of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

A complete Survey of the Borough was made and records kept of all premises where rat or mice infestation was found to exist or was suspected. Following this Survey, arrangements were made for the initial treatment of the Sewers of the town. Work was commenced on September 4th. and continued until October 25th. and the estimated number of Rats accounted for was 1,207. The second sewer treatment followed immediately and was completed in one month's time, when only 33 rats were accounted for, proving that the initial

treatment had been successful. The total kill in this sewer treatment was therefore 1,240 Rats.

Fourteen other premises were treated up to the end of the year resulting in some 550 rats being accounted for.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

In common with most towns, Clitheroe is experiencing an acute shortage of housing accommodation and the provision of new houses is the most urgent problem at the present time. The Council has already given serious consideration to the First and Second Years' Programmes of the post-war period.

It has been decided to erect some 50 temporary Bungalows of the Government type. The Programme provides also for the erection of 62 permanent houses of the traditional type on the Henthorn Site, and the advance preparation works in respect of this Site are expected to begin early in 1945. The erection of a further 50 houses on Tower Hill was under consideration at the end of the Year.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

| | |
|--|------|
| 1. Number of Houses erected during the year..... | Nil. |
| 2. Number of Houses inspected for Housing defects..... | 20 |
| 3. Number of Inspections made for this purpose..... | 36 |
| 4. Number of Houses found to be unfit for human habitation. | Nil |
| 5. Number of Houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.... | 9 |
| 6. Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or Officers.... | 9 |
| 7. Number of dwellings in respect of which action was taken under Statutory Powers under Public Health and Housing Acts,,... | Nil |
| 8. Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year..... | Nil |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR (CIVILIANS ONLY).

| Disease. | At all Ages. | Under 1 yr. | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-65 | 65 & Over. | To Hosp. | Deaths. |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|----------|---------|
| Smallpox. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Anthrax. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Diphtheria. | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever. | 34 | - | - | 1 | 2 | 7 | 16 | - | 4 | 4 | - | - | - | 5 | - |
| Measles. | 146 | 3 | 10 | 23 | 14 | 21 | 71 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough. | 25 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 10 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas. | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - |
| Pneumonia. | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | 2 | - | 3 |
| Abortus Fever. | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Meningeal Encephalitis. | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum. | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | 2 | - | 4 | 3 |
| Other Forms of Tuberculosis. | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| | 230 | 8 | 11 | 30 | 21 | 31 | 99 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 14 | 7 |

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1944.

| CAUSE OF DEATH. | MALE. | FEMALE. | TOTAL. |
|---|-------|---------|--------|
| All Causes - Certified..... | 72 | 73 | 145 |
| Uncertified..... | .. | .. | .. |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever. | .. | .. | .. |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever..... | .. | .. | .. |
| Scarlet Fever..... | .. | .. | .. |
| Whooping Cough..... | .. | 1 | 1 |
| Diphtheria..... | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System..... | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases... | .. | .. | .. |
| Influenza..... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Measles..... | .. | .. | .. |
| Acute Encephalitis..... | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Premature Birth, Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Cancer (all forms)..... | 8 | 13 | 21 |
| Diabetes..... | .. | 1 | 1 |
| Heart Disease..... | 26 | 26 | 52 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System..... | .. | 3 | 3 |
| Bronchitis..... | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Pneumonia..... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases.... | .. | 1 | 1 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.. | 2 | .. | 2 |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years)..... | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Appendicitis..... | .. | .. | .. |
| Nephritis..... | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Puerperal Sepsis..... | .. | .. | .. |
| Other Maternal Causes..... | .. | 1 | 1 |
| Suicide..... | 2 | .. | 2 |
| Road Traffic Accidents..... | .. | .. | .. |
| Other Violent Causes..... | 2 | .. | 2 |
| All Other Causes..... | 10 | 16 | 26 |
| Totals..... | 72 | 73 | 145 |

